(b) whether it is a fact that over 80 per cent of India's rural population do not have access to advanced medical treatment; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard for providing medical facilities in villages and rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The four public sector general insurance companies have been selling "Mediclaim Insurance Policy". The information relating to number of persons covered under mediclaim policy during the past five years is given below:—

Year	Number of persons covered
1999-2000	48,94,129
2000-2001	61,05,977
2001-2002	77,84,491

(b) and (c) The Government has announced the National Health Policy, 2002 during this year. The main objective of this Policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country by adopting the approach of increasing access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in different areas, and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions.

Health is a State subject. State Governments take necessary steps to improve their health care delivery system including establishment of vast network of primary health care institutions as per the prescribed norms.

Knowledge of contraceptives

†3899. SHRIMATIKUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of knowledge of contraceptives and their usage, about 600 women die everyday during delivery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure its awareness and usage of contraceptives among women?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government brings out TV spots and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) messages through pamphlets, posters, hoardings, radio, etc. on the various contraceptives available in the programme and also gives messages on the importance of birth spacing.

Setting up of Cancer Research Centre

†3900. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Cancer Research Centre in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent these Research Centres are able to treat this disease; and

(d) whether any new vaccine has been developed for the treatment of cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry has recognized 20 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) in different parts of the country (Details annexed as Statement) *(See* below). These RCCs undertake early detection, diagnosis, treatment and research activities in the field of cancer. The RCCs are equipped for Surgery, Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy and Supportive care for treatment of cancer in the respective State/ region.

(d) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) has been developed for control of cervical cancers, however, the efficacy of the vaccine has not yet been established since trials are underway.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.